

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected.

Claims 8, 9 and 15 were objected to.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended.

Claim 15 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1-11 and 13-14 are pending in this application.

The formalities of the arrangement of the specification have been addressed above.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all the recitations of claim 15, which is subsequently canceled. Similarly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the recitations of amended claim 13 (and 15), in method form. For the foregoing reasons, amended independent claims 1 and 13 are now deemed allowable.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the above rejection.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dajer et al. (US 6094585) in view of Gerogiokas (US Publ. 2003/0022693). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Claim 2-10 and 11 are dependent on amended claim 1, hereby incorporated by reference, and are therefore deemed allowable as well in view of this dependency. Similarly, claim 14 is dependent on amended claim 13, hereby incorporated by reference, and is therefore deemed allowable as well in view of this dependency.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn and the application proceed to grant.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection or through an Examiner's amendment.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Molkdar et al.**

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